THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Conveened at EDINBURGH, the 19th Day of *May*, 1774.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerk thereof.

EDINBURGH:

Printed by ROBERT FLEMING, Printer to the Church of *Scotland*. M,DCC,LXXIV.

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

42

4 2

82

BRITISH MUSEUM

122

THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

Begun at Edinburgh the 19th Day of May 1774, and concluded the 30th Day of said Month.

I.

The King's Commission to CHARLES Lord Cathcart produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 19th 1774.

THE General Assembly of this National Church being conveened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable CHARLES Lord CATHCART, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission

ſion was publickly read with all due honour and reſpect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Aſſembly: The tenor whereof follows:

" GEORGIUS, Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniæ, " Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defenſor; omni- " bus probis hominibus, ad quos præſentes literæ noſtræ per- " venerint, ſalutem. Quandoquidem nos conſiderantes, quod " generalis eccleſiæ Scotiæ conventus in decimum nonum " diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; noſque etiam " abunde cupidi, quinetiam neceſſarium eſſe judicantes in " commodum dictæ eccleſiæ, ut idem generalis eccleſiæ con- " ventus, die ſtatuto debite obſerveur, atque rebus magni " momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui perſonaliter " intereſſe nequimus; noſque abunde ſatisfacti de fidelitate " et ſufficientia fideliſſimi et dilectiſſimi noſtri conſiliarii " Caroli Domini Cathcart, quod ad ſummum munus ri- " te exercendum et obeundum uſquequaque ſit inſtruc- " tus: Noveritis igitur nos nominaſſe, conſtituiſſe, et ordi- " naſſe, ſicuti nos, tenore præſentium, nominamus, conſtitui- " mus, et ordinamus, memoratum fideliſſimum et prædilectiſ- " ſimum noſtrum conſiliarium Carolum Dominum Cath- " cart, ſupremum noſtrum Commiſſionarium dicto generali " eccleſiæ conventui Scotiæ, dando et concedendo illi pleniſſi- " mam noſtram poteſtatem, commiſſionem, et warrantem, ſa- " cram noſtram perſonam et authoritatem regalem repreſen- " tandi, nec non preſentiam noſtram ſupplendi, et locum no- " ſtrum in dicto ſubſequenti generali conventu, tanquam Com- " miſſionario noſtro ad hunc effectum ſpecialiter conſtituto, " tenendi, omniaque alia et imperium et munus Commiſſiona- " rii pro generali eccleſiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeo- " que libere, in quovis reſpectu, quam quilibet alius ejuſdem " ſummi muneris fecerat, ſeu quovis tempore præterito facere " potuerat, vel ac ſi nos ipſi perſonaliter præſentes facere po- " tuerimus. Quæque omnia et ſingula ab antedicto Carolo " Domino Cathcart, in hac noſtra commiſſione proſequen- " da legitime fecerit, ſeu fieri ordinaverit, nos firmiter appro- " bamus, et habituri ſumus. Omnibus et ſingulis inſuper " antedictæ eccleſiæ et conventus paſtoribus, et preſbyteris, " cæterisque quibuſcunque infra illam partem Magnæ Bri- " tanniæ, Scotiam vocatam, ſubditis noſtris quibuſcunque, " cujuſcunque gradus, ſeu qualitatis, ut dictum Carolum

" Dominum

" Dominum Cathcart, tanquam ſupremum noſtrum Com-
" miſſionarium, quoad effectum et modum ſupra mentiona-
" tum reverentur, agnoſcant, et dict. ipſius audientes ſe
" præbeant, ſtricte mandamus et imperamus: Atque hanc
" noſtram commiſſionem, a dicto decimo nono die Maii
" proxime incipere, et deinceps hac ſubſequendi ſeſſione dicti
" generalis conventus, in vigore continuare declaramus, vel
" uſque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus
" rei teſtimonium, ſigillum noſtrum per Unionis tractatum
" cuſtodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejuſ-
" dem, utend. ordinat. præſentibus appendi mandavimus;
" apud aulam noſtram apud St James's, vigeſimo nono die
" menſis Aprilis, anno Domini milleſimo ſeptingenteſimo ſep-
" tuageſimo quarto, regnique noſtri anno decimo quarto. Per
" ſignaturam manu S. D. N. regis ſupraſcript."

II.

The KING's moſt gracious Letter to the General Aſſembly, preſented to them by his Majeſty's Commiſſioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT Reverend and well-beloved, We greet you well. The invariable proofs we have received of your loyalty and affection for our perſon and government, and the ſteady and zealous ardour which you have manifeſted in your endeavours to promote true religion and piety, and the encreaſe of virtue and morality, are ſo pleaſing to us, that it is with the greateſt ſatisfaction we renew the aſſurances of our moſt favourable diſpoſition towards you, as well as our reſolution to ſupport the Church of Scotland in all its rights and privileges as by law eſtabliſhed. We are throughly perſuaded, that the ſame Chriſtian zeal will animate your

proceedings in this meeting of the General Aſſembly, as has been ſo often exerted in the diſcouragement of vice and irreligion. In the promoting of theſe ſalutary and laudable purpoſes, which we have ſo much at heart, you may rely on our ſteady concurrence and ſupport.

The harmony and unanimity which have conſtantly prevailed in your proceedings, are ſo eſſentially neceſſary to the dignity and efficacy of your deliberations, that we are perſuaded you will carefully avoid all private animoſities and perſonal altercations; and that your councils will be directed to the laudable purpoſes of enforcing due obedience to the laws of our moſt happy conſtitution, and inculcating a conſcientious diſcharge of all thoſe religious duties, which are inſeparable from the felicity and welfare of our people.

We have appointed our Right Truſty and Well-beloved Counſellor Charles Lord Cathcart, to repreſent our royal perſon in this Aſſembly, whoſe loyalty, integrity, and zeal for our ſervice, we have long experienced; and we are perſuaded that the choice we have made of him will be moſt agreeable to you, as he has ſo often given proofs of his affection for the Church of Scotland. We have the firmeſt reliance on the wiſdom and purity of your proceedings, and that your minds will be actuated by charity, brotherly love, and unanimity, during the buſineſs of the preſent meeting of the General Aſſembly, which cannot fail to ſecure a happy concluſion of it: And ſo we bid you heartily farewell.

Given at our Court at St James's, the 29th day of April 1774, in the fourteenth year of our reign.

By his Majeſty's Command,

(Signed) SUFFOLK.

III. The

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,

THE gracious Letter with which your Majesty hath honoured this meeting of the National Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received by us with every becoming mark of respect and gratitude.

The very condescending expressions which it contains of your satisfaction with the proofs which the Assemblies of this Church have given of their loyalty and affection to your Majesty's person and government, and with their zealous endeavours to promote the interests of piety and virtue, fill our minds with the sincerest joy: And we rely with entire confidence on the assurances of your royal favour and protection, and of your resolution to support the Church of Scotland as by law established, in all its rights and privileges.

The hopes which you are graciously pleased to give us of your powerful support and countenance, serve to animate our zeal, and encourage our endeavours to suppress vice and irreligion, and promote all the salutary purposes of good government, which your Majesty hath so much at heart.

We accept with gratitude of your Majesty's royal donation for promoting Christian Knowledge and the reformed religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland; and it shall be our study to apply it in such a manner as may most effectually answer the wise and pious ends for which it is granted.

In imitation of former General Assemblies, it shall be our study to conduct all our proceedings and deliberations with such candour and brotherly affection, as may procure the continuance of your Majesty's gracious approbation, and add dignity and efficacy to our decisions.

Sensible

Senſible of the felicity which we and our fellow ſubjects enjoy, under our preſent happy conſtitution in Church and State, it ſhall be one great object of our deliberations to enforce that obedience to the precepts of our religion, and to the laws of our country, which is ſo neceſſary to national proſperity, and to the ſtability of our moſt excellent conſtitution.

Your Majeſty's appointment of Lord Cathcart, to repreſent your Royal Perſon in this Aſſembly, is highly agreeable to us, on account of his eminent loyalty, and of his approved abilities and fidelity in the execution of the important truſts committed to him by your Majeſty, and of the dignity with which we have ſeen him fill this high ſtation on former occaſions, and the many proofs he hath given of his ſincere concern for religion, and affection to the Church of Scotland.

That it may pleaſe the King of kings to prolong your Majeſty's moſt precious life, that he may beſtow his choiceſt bleſſings on your Royal Conſort our moſt gracious Queen, his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales, and all the Royal Family; and that after a long and glorious reign over dutiful and happy ſubjects, you may receive an everlaſting Crown in the kingdom of Heaven, is, and ever ſhall be, the fervent prayers of,

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt faithful,

Moſt obedient,

And moſt loyal Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our preſence,

And at our appointment, by

ROBERT HENRY, *Moderator.*

EDINBURGH,
20th May, 1774.

IV. The

IV.

The General Assembly's congratulatory Address to the King on the Birth of a Prince.

May it please your Majesty,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Church of Scotland, embrace with pleasure this first opportunity which our meeting in a General Assembly affords us, of approaching your throne with humble congratulations on the birth of another Prince.

Attached to your Majesty by that affection which your Majesty's amiable qualities inspire, we cannot but rejoice in an event which adds to your domestic felicity. The loyalty which we bear to our Sovereign, and a deep sense of the intimate connexion betwixt the prosperity of your Royal Family and the public welfare, increase our satisfaction. Engaged as we are by every motive of duty and of interest to wish the continuance of the British sceptre in your illustrious House, we regard every addition to your Royal Family as a new pledge of the security of our religion and liberties. We adore the goodness of God, who, by the flourishing state of your Royal House, and the persevering wisdom and clemency of your government, affords us so much reason to be grateful for the happiness which we now enjoy, and for the future prospects which are before us.

That his gracious protection may ever continue to watch over your Royal person, your illustrious Consort the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and every branch of your Majesty's august race: That his Spirit may prompt all your undertakings, his Wisdom may direct all your councils, and his Providence crown them with success;

and that after having long made that extenſive and flouriſhing Empire, over which you reign, happy by your mild and juſt adminiſtration, you may at length attain the full reward of thoſe righteous Princes who ſhall ſhine as the brightneſs of the firmament in the everlaſting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, are the ſincere prayers of,

Moſt gracious Sovereign,

Your Majeſty's moſt faithful, obedient,

And loyal Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders met in this General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our preſence,

And at our appointment, by

ROBERT HENRY, *Moderator.*

EDIN. 23d May 1774.

V. Commiſſion

V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr Robert Henry, one of the Ministers of Edinburgh, their Moderator, all the ministers members of the presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Archibald M'Lea at Rothsay, Mr Robert Thomson at Killean, Mr George Robertson at Campbelton, Mr Peter Campbell at Kilmichael, Mr Angus Fletcher at Ardnamurchan, Mr Adam Ferguson at Moulin, Mr James Campbell at Kenmuir, Mr James Hunter at Auchtergovan, Dr James Oswald at Methven, Mr James Jobson at Errol, Mr Alexander Duff at Tippermuir, Dr Lauchlan Taylor at Larbert, Mr Robert Buchanan at Clackmanan, Mr John Murray at Foulis, Mr John Kemp at Trinity-gask, Mr Duncan Stewart at Balquhiddder, Mr David Hunter at Saline, Mr John Spence at Orwell, Mr Robert Colvil at Dysart, Mr James Reid at Kinglassie, Mr Hugh Glass at Kettle, Mr James Burn at Forgan, Mr James Spankie at Cupar, Mr Thomas Racker at Oathlaw, Mr James Hunter at Kirkden, Mr Andrew Bruce at Brechin, Mr Alexander Lesly at Fordoun, Mr William Duff at Peterculter, Professor Alexander Gerard at Aberdeen, Dr John Ogilvie at Midmar, Mr Thomas Mitchell at Tarves, Mr Alexander Reid at Kemnay, Mr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr James Lawtie at Fordyce, Mr John Cooper at Glass, Mr Patrick Grant at Cromdale, Mr Joseph Anderson at Birnie, Mr Alexander Coull at Edinkelly, Mr Thomas Gordon at Auldearn, Mr Patrick Dunbar at Nairn, Mr James

James Monro at Cromarty, Mr Patrick Grant at Urray, Mr James Robertſon at Lochbroom, Mr John Thomſon at Durneſs, Mr William M'Queen at Sniſert, Mr Robert Sands at Hoy, Mr Nicol Spence at Weſtray, Mr Patrick Mair at Braſſay, Mr James Lindſay at Kirkliſton, Mr Bernard Haldane at Glenholm, Mr William Wallace at Drummelziour, Mr John Main at Newton, Mr Alexander Glen at Dirleton, Mr Adam Dickſon at Whittingham, Dr Walter Anderſon at Chirnſide, Mr David Dickſon at Edrham, Mr Robert Deans at Crailing, Mr Abraham Ker at Nenthorn, Mr William Campbell at Lilliefleaf, Mr Thomas Smith at Cummertrees, Mr John Dickie at Langholm, Mr Joſeph Fergusſon at Tundergarth, Mr Patrick Niſbet at Hutton, Mr John M'Kell at Duriſdeer, Mr Philip Moriſon at Dunſcore, Mr Robert Cooper at Girthon, Mr Robert Walker at Mochrum, Mr James Caddel at Newluce, Mr Patrick Woodrow at Torbolton, Mr James Halket at Fenwick, Mr John Monteith at Houſton, Mr James Morehead at Stenhouſe, Mr Alexander Stewart at Blair Athol, Mr James Scot at Carluke, Mr William Porteous at Glaſgow, miniſters; Mr James Loch writer to the ſignet, Allan M'Dougal younger of Galaniſh, Eſq; Thomas Elder of Thornygreen, Eſq; Provoſt William Stewart, Bailie James Gentle, Dr John Steedman phyſician in Edinburgh, Mr William Chalmers writer in Edinburgh, Profeſſor John Hill, Mr Alexander Hart writer in Edinburgh, Mr John Scot advocate, Captain Robert Mudie, Sir James Colquhoun of Luſs, the Procurator, Mr John Taylor writer, Mr Coſmo Gordon advocate, Dr Gregory Grant, Mr Robert Cullen advocate, Bailie John Lothian, Bailie John Forreſt, Bailie John Walker, merchants in Edinburgh, David Roſs of Innerhauſley, Eſq; Robert Chalmers of Larbert, Eſq; Mr Walter Gibſon ſurgeon in Leith, Mr Neil Fergusſon advocate, Mr William M'Donald writer to the ſignet, Mr John Moſman merchant in Edinburgh, Conveener Orlando Hart, Bailie John Grieve, the Earl of Lauderdale, Provoſt James Stewart, Mr Allan M'Connochie advocate, the Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, Conveener Thomas Simpſon, Mr John Dickſon advocate, the Lord Advocate, the Lord

President,

President, Charles Brown younger of Coalston, Esq; Mr Sollicitor Dundas, Provost John Dalrymple, Mr George Currie advocate, Alexander Orr of Waterside, Esq; William Hay of Crawfordtown, Esq; Bailie William Todd, Mr William Chalmers surgeon in Edinburgh, William Campbell younger of Fairfield, Esq; Mr James Colquhoun advocate, Mr Isaac Grant writer to the signet, Mr Richard Tod merchant in Leith, and Mr Colquhoun Grant writer to the signet, Ruling Elders; to be a committee of this Assembly, for reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true Religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the committee are to appoint preachers and catechists to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be most proper, according to his Majesty's design expressed in his warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small-Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the committee shall find, by reason of their vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such preachers and catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of, the presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the committee be duly observed by them. And the preachers are also appointed to catechise; and both they and the catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick: And, in all their labours among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant Religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty

alty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the committee are impowered to give them ſuch inſtructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they ſhall judge meet; which inſtructions the preachers and catechiſts are hereby ordered to obey. The General Aſſembly do further appoint the ſaid committee, to have a particular regard in their proceedings to the regulations agreed upon by the committee of the Aſſembly for managing the Royal bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approven by frequent Aſſemblies; and to take care that preſbyteries, and others concerned, obſerve the ſame, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Aſſembly ordains the ſeveral preſbyteries to inſert in their regiſters, the committee's appointments of the deſignations, ſalaries, and ſtations of the ſeveral miſſionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they ſhall write about the ſaid miſſionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters concerning miſſionaries in their bounds, only to the moderator of the committee; which letters ſhall be ſigned, at the appointment of the preſbytery, by the moderator or clerk thereof: And the Aſſembly does diſcharge any payment to be made of the ſalaries of the miſſionaries, except upon receipts from the miſſionaries themſelves, and upon certificates from the preſbyteries, bearing that they have ſerved for the time mentioned in the receipts. The General Aſſembly do alſo impower the ſaid committee to apply, for the purpoſes above mentioned, what may remain of the laſt year's Royal Bounty not diſpoſed of, by reaſon of any of the miſſionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them: And they are to keep a regiſter of their proceedings, and likewiſe diſtinct books of accompts, how the foreſaid money is beſtowed, which ſhall be patent to any concerned who pleaſe to inſpect the ſame. Of the perſons above named as members of this committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be miniſters. But it is hereby appointed, that at the quarterly meeting of the committee, in which the ſcheme or eſtabliſhment of miſſionaries for the enſuing year is to be approved and determined, not leſs than fourteen ſhall be the quorum, whereof nine ſhall be miniſters, and the ſaid committee are appointed to have their general

neral meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of the four stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly Isle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places, as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their committee of directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the synods and presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and impowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do by these presents nominate and appoint Mr David Dalrymple advocate, procurator for the Church, to be Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, and to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the said committee, and according to their rules. And the said committee are appointed to examine the accompts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, that no person once employed and insert in the scheme shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lye on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time, the person complained of, and the presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and these concerned be required to send to the said committee a just account of the matter, against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters

to

to the preſbyteries concerned, ſuch preſbyteries ſhall ſend up to the ſaid committee, their anſwer to theſe letters, at fartheſt with their commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly, if the ſame be not done ſooner; and that the committee, at their firſt meeting after the General Aſſembly, ſhall endeavour to compleat the next year's ſcheme themſelves; and if they cannot compleat it, they ſhall name a ſub-committee of their number for that purpoſe, who are to lay their draught thereof before a ſubſequent meeting, which are appointed to meet as ſoon after the riſing of the Aſſembly as poſſible; and impowered the committee at their firſt meeting to reject any petition for a new ſtation in caſe they ſhall find ſufficient objections againſt it. And that the ſaid committee, in making up the ſcheme of miſſionaries, &c. do not exceed the ſum in the Grant.

VI.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for diſcuſſing affairs referred to them.

THE General Aſſembly conſidering that there are divers affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate, commiſſionate, and appoint the Reverend Dr Robert Henry, one of the miniſters of Edinburgh, their Moderator; and from the preſbytery of Denoon, Mr Alexander Lamont at Kilfinan, Mr Archibald M'Lea at Rothſay, miniſters, and John Lamont of Lamont, Eſq; Ruling Elder; From the burgh of Rothſay, Duncan M'Millan of Dunmore, Eſq; From the preſbytery of Kintyre, Mr Robert Thomſon at Killean, Mr Gerſhom Stewart at Kilbride, Mr George Robertſon at Campbeltown, miniſters, and Bailie John Brown merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Inverary, Mr Hugh Campbell at Kilmartin, Mr Peter Campbell at Kilmichael, miniſters, and Mr James Loch writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; From the burgh of Inverary,

Inverary, Dr James Williamson; From the presbytery of Mull, Mr Archibald M'Tavish at Torosay, Mr Angus Fletcher at Ardnamurchan, ministers, and Mr Allan M'Dougal writer to the signet, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Dunkeld, Mr Adam Ferguson at Moulin, Mr Alexander Stewart at Blair Athol, Mr James Campbell at Kenmore, Mr James Hunter at Auchtergovan, ministers, Mr Neil Ferguson advocate, and Thomas Elder of Thornygreen, Esq; ruling elders; From the presbytery of Perth, Dr James Oswald at Methven, Mr James Jobson at Errol, Mr David Dow at Dron, Mr Alexander Duff at Tippermuir, ministers, Mr Alexander Belsches advocate, and Bailie John Caw merchant there, ruling elders; From the burgh of Perth, Provost William Stewart; From the presbytery of Stirling, Dr Lauchlan Taylor at Larbert, Mr Robert Buchanan at Clackmannan, ministers, and Lord Alva, ruling elder; From the Presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr John Murray at Fowlis, Mr Lewis Dunbar at Dunning, Mr John Kemp at Trinity-gask, ministers, and Bailie James Gentle, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Dumblane, Mr Duncan Stewart at Balquhidder, Mr Christopher Tait at Kincardine, ministers, and John Graham younger of Meiklewood, Esq; ruling elder; From the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr David Hunter at Saline, Mr John Spence at Orwell, Mr David Balfour at Torryburn, ministers, and Dr John Steedman physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the burgh of Dysart, Samuel Charteris, Esq; From the presbytery of Kirkcaldy, Mr Robert Colvil at Dysart, Mr James Reid at Kinglassie, Mr Patrick Wright at Kennoway, ministers, and James Townshend Oswald of Dunnikier, Esq; ruling elder; From the burgh of Kirkcaldy, Bailie James Landale; From the burgh of Kinghorn, James Balmain, Esq; Sollicitor of Excise; From the burgh of Burntisland, Mr Andrew Robertson merchant there; From the presbytery of Cupar, Mr Hugh Glass at Kettle, Mr Andrew Hutton at Kilmeny, Mr Andrew Walker at Colessie, Mr George Campbell at Cupar, ministers, the Honourable Captain Maitland, and Major John Melvil of Cairnie, ruling elders; From the presbytery of St. Andrews, Mr James Burn at Forgan, Mr William Pairman at Ely, Mr James Forrester at Anstruther Wester, Mr Alexander

Brodie at Dinnino, miniſters, James Durham of Largo, Eſq; and Profeſſor George Hill, ruling elders; From the burgh of St. Andrews, Mr William Chalmers writer in Edinburgh; From the univerſity of St Andrews, Profeſſor John Hill; From the burgh of Craill, Mr Andrew Balfour advocate; From the burgh of Anſtruther Eaſter, Alexander Hart of Baltully, Eſq; From the burgh of Kilrenny, Andrew Croſbie of Holm, Eſq; From the preſbytery of Meigle, Mr James Spankie at Cupar, Mr Alexander Dun at Bendochie, Mr James Thomſon at Kingoldrum, miniſters, and Patrick Aliſon of Newhall, Eſq; ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Forfar, Mr Thomas Racker at Oathlaw, Mr William Adie at Kirriemuir, miniſters, and Mr James Anderſon advocate, ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Dundee, Mr James Adamſon at Abernyte, Mr Alexander Imlack at Muirhouſe, Mr John Playfair at Liff, miniſters, and Mr Andrew Pitcairn writer there, ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Aberbrothock, Mr James Hunter at Kirkden, Mr John Aitken at St Vigians, miniſters, and the Honourable Baron Maule, ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Brechin, Mr Andrew Bruce at Brechin, Mr David Millar at Edgell, Mr Charles Niſbet at Montroſe, miniſters, and Mr John Scot advocate, ruling elder; From the burgh of Montroſe, Captain Robert Mudie ſhipmaſter in Leith; From the preſbytery of Fordoun, Mr Alexander Leſlie at Fordoun, Mr John Hutchiſon at Fetteresſo, Mr James Walker at Dunnoter, miniſters, and Mr George Home baker in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the burgh of Bervie, Mr Joſeph Gavin merchant in Edinburgh; From the preſbytery of Aberdeen, Mr William Duff at Peterculter, Profeſſor Alexander Gerard, Mr Alexander Roſe at Drumoak, Mr William Strachan at Durris, miniſters, Sir James Cockburn, and James Cunninghame of Hyndhope, Eſq; ruling elders; From the King's College, Profeſſor John Leſlie; From the preſbytery of Kincardine O'Niel, Dr John Ogilvie at Midmar, Mr John Ramſay at Strathaen, Mr William Shand at Lumphannan, miniſters, and Mr Neal M'Innes in Kyarerd, ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Ellon, Mr Thomas Mitchell at Tarves, Mr John Roſe at Udney, miniſters, and Profeſſor Thomas Gordon at Aberdeen, ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Garioch, Mr John

Lickly

Lickly at Old Meldrum, Mr Alexander Reid at Kemnay, Mr William Davidson at Inverary, ministers, and the Procurator, ruling elder; From the burgh of Inverury, Mr John Clerk merchant in Edinburgh; From the presbytery of Deer, Mr George Moir at Peterhead, Mr Andrew Youngson at Aberdour, Mr Charles Keay at Old Deer, ministers, and Mr John Taylor writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the Presbytery of Fordyce, Mr James Lawtie at Fordyce, Mr James Dunbar at Boyndie, ministers, and Mr John Robertson writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the burgh of Banff, the Honourable Charles Hope-Weir, Esq; From the presbytery of Strathbogie, Mr John Couper at Glass, Mr Algernoon Gordon at Keith, ministers, and Mr Cosmo Gordon advocate, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Aberlour, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr John Dunbar at Knockando, ministers, and Mr Isaac Grant writer to the signet, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Abernethy, Mr Patrick Grant at Cromdale, Mr John Grant at Abernethy, ministers, and Dr Gregory Grant physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Elgin, Mr Joseph Anderson at Birnie, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, ministers, and Mr John Touch minister of the Chapel of Ease, Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the burgh of Elgin, Mr David Sampson factor to the Earl of Hopetoun; From the presbytery of Forres, Mr Alexander Coul at Edinkelly, Mr James Hay at Dallas, ministers, and Mr Robert Cullen advocate, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Nairn, Mr Thomas Gordon at Auldearn, Mr Patrick Dunbar at Nairn, ministers, and Bailie John Lothian merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the burgh of Nairn, Mr William Dunbar writer to the signet; From the burgh of Invernels, Bailie John Forrest merchant in Edinburgh; From the presbytery of Chanonry, Mr James Monro at Cromarty, Mr Alexander Wood at Rosemerkie, ministers, and Bailie John Walker merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Tain, Mr Hugh Rose at Tain, Mr John Urquhart at Fearn, ministers, and David Ross of Innerhaussey, Esq; ruling elder; From the burgh of Tain, Robert Chalmers of Larbert, Esq; From the presbytery of Dingwall, Mr Patrick Grant at Urray, Mr George Watson at Kiltearn,

tearn, miniſters, and Mr Walter Gibſon ſurgeon in Leith, ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Abertarph, Mr William Grant at Kilmanivaig, Mr Andrew Gallie at Laggan, miniſters, and Mr Colquhoun Grant writer to the ſignet, ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Sky, Mr William M'Queen at Sniſert, Mr John Nicolſon at Portree, miniſters, and James Wilkie of Rathobyres, Eſq; ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Uiſt, Mr Allan M'Queen at North Uiſt, Mr George Monro at South Uiſt, miniſters, and George Buchan of Kello, Eſq; ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Gerloch, Mr James Robertſon at Lochbroom, Mr Daniel M'Intoſh at Gerloch, miniſters, and William M'Donald of Rennettan, Eſq; ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Tongue, Mr John Thomſon at Durneſs, Mr William M'Kenzie at Tongue, miniſters, and Mr John Moſman merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the burgh of Wick, Bailie Daniel Miller; From the preſbytery of Cairſton, Mr Robert Sands at Hoy, Mr John Reid at Orphir, miniſters, and Conveener Orlando Hart, ruling elder; From the preſbytery of North Iſles, Mr Nicol Spence at Weſtray, Mr William Clouſton at Croſs, miniſters, and Bailie John Learmonth merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Zetland, Mr William Mitchell at Tingwall, Mr Patrick Mair at Braſſay, miniſters, and Bailie John Grieve merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder: From the preſbytery of Edinburgh, Dr George Wiſhart, Principal Robertſon, Dr John Dryſdale, Dr William Gloag, Mr John Warden, Mr John Chiſley at Corſtorphine, miniſters, the Earl of Lauderdale, Provoſt James Stewart, and Mr Allan M'Connochie advocate, ruling elders; From the city of Edinburgh, the Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, and Conveener Thomas Simpſon; From the univerſity of Edinburgh, Dr Hugh Blair; From the church of Campvere, Mr James Yair at Campvere, miniſter, and John Home, Eſq; ruling elder; From the preſbytery of Linlithgow, Mr James Lindſay at Kirkliſton, Mr William Baron at Whitburn, Mr William Garvie at Weſt Calder, Mr James Dobie at Mid Calder, miniſters, Mr Charles Addiſon merchant at Borrowſtouneſs, and Bailie Robert Clerk merchant in Linlithgow, ruling elders; From the burgh of Linlithgow, Provoſt Henry Gillies; From the burgh of Queensferry,

ferry, Mr James Taylor merchant there; From the presbytery of Biggar, Mr Bernard Haldane at Glenholm, Mr William Lockhart at Coulter, Mr John Bradefute at Dunsyre, ministers, and Mr John Dickson advocate, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Peebles, Mr William Wallace at Drumelzier, Mr Thomas Muschet at Tweedsmuir, ministers, and the Lord Advocate, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Dalkeith, Mr John Main at Newton, Mr Alexander Colvill at Ormiston, Mr James Steel at Cockpen, ministers, and the Lord President, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Haddington, Mr Alexander Glen at Dirleton, Mr Matthew Murray at North Berwick, Mr Francis Cowan at Gladsmuir, ministers, and Charles Brown younger of Coalston, Esq; ruling elder; From the burgh of Haddington, Francis Kinloch younger of Gilmerton, Esq; From the burgh of North Berwick, Hugh Dalrymple of North Berwick, Esq; From the presbytery of Dunbar, Mr Adam Dickson at Whittingham, Mr Daniel M'Queen at Preston Kirk, ministers, and Hugh Dalrymple of Nunraw, Esq; ruling elder; From the burgh of Dunbar, Sir George Suttie; From the presbytery of Dunse, Mr Robert Douglas at Buncle, Mr Ralph Drummond at Crenshaws, ministers, and Mr Matthew Sandilands writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Chirnside, Dr Walter Anderson at Chirnside, Mr George Cupples at Swinton, ministers, and Sir John Stewart of Allanbank, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Kelso, Mr David Dickson at Eduam, Mr William Simpson at Morbottle, ministers, and Mr Sollicitor Dundas, ruling elder; From the Presbytery of Jedburgh, Mr Robert Deans at Crailing, Mr Thomas Elliot at Cavers, Mr William Burn at Minto, ministers, and Mr Thomas Turnbull at Burnfoot, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Lauder, Mr Abraham Ker at Nenthorn, Mr John Mertin at Mertown, ministers, and Provost John Dalrymple, ruling elder; From the burgh of Lauder, Thomas Hogg of Newliston, Esq; advocate; From the presbytery of Selkirk, Mr William Campbell at Lilliesleaf, Mr Frederick M'Laggan at Melrose, ministers, and Mr Adam Ogilvie advocate, ruling elder; From the burgh of Selkirk, Mr George Currie advocate; From the presbytery of Annan, Mr Thomas Smith at

Cummertrees, Mr James Small at Dornock, ministers, and Alexander Orr of Waterside, Esq; ruling elder; From the burgh of Annan, William Hay of Crawfordtoun, Esq; From the presbytery of Langholm, Mr John Dickie at Langholm, Mr Richard Scott at Ewes, ministers, and Bailie William Tod merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Lochmaben, Mr Joseph Ferguson at Tundergarth, Mr Patrick Nisbet at Hutton, Mr Jacob Dickson at Mouswald, ministers, and Mr John Murray in Kinnelhead, ruling elder; From the burgh of Lochmaben, Mr Alexander Ferguson advocate; From the presbytery of Ponpont, Mr Robert Aitken at Morton, Mr John M'Kell at Durrisdeer, ministers, and Mr Robert Lorimer in Auchinnight, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Dumfries, Mr Philip Morison at Dunscore, Mr George Duncan at Lochrutton, Mr Andrew Hunter at Dumfries, ministers, and Provost Ebenezer Hepburn ruling elder; From the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, Mr Robert Cooper at Girthorn, Mr William Donaldson at Parton, Mr Samuel Martin at Balmaghie, ministers, and John Busby of Auchingibbert, Esq; ruling elder; From the burgh of New Galloway, Mr William Chalmers surgeon in Edinburgh; From the presbytery of Wigtoun, Mr Robert Walker at Mochrum, Mr Samuel Brown at Kirkmabrie, ministers, and John Hawthorn of Overlaires, Esq; ruling elder; From the presbytery of Stranraer, Mr James Caddle at Newlace, and Mr John M'Kenzie at Portpatrick, ministers, and Robert Cathcart of Genoch, Esq; ruling elder; From the presbytery of Air, Mr Patrick Woodrow at Torbolton, Mr John Cunningham at Monkton, Mr David Shaw at Coylton, Mr Thomas Thomson at Dailey, Mr John Ramsay at Kirkmichael, ministers, John Hamilton of Bargeny, Esq; and William Campbell younger of Fairfield, Esq; ruling elders; From the burgh of Air, William Duff of Crombie, Esq; From the presbytery of Irvine, Mr James Halket at Fenwick, Mr John Graham at Dunlop, Mr James Richmond at Irvine, ministers, and the Honourable Patrick Boyle, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Paisley, Mr John Monteith at Houston, Mr William Taylor at Paisley, Mr Walter Young at Erskine, ministers, and Mr James Colquhoun advocate, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Hamil-

ton,

ton, Mr James Morehead at Stenhouse, Mr John Risk at Dalserf, Mr Henry Stephenson at Blantyre, ministers, and Mr John Pender, ruling elder; From the presbytery of Lanark, Mr James Scot at Carluke, Mr William M'Gubban at Douglas, ministers, and Mr John Wharrie, ruling elder; From the burgh of Lanark, Mr Richard Tod merchant in Leith; From the presbytery of Glasgow, Mr Alexander Dun at Calder, Mr William Porteous at Glasgow, Mr William Anderson at Gorbals, Mr Thomas Randal at Glasgow, ministers, Baillie John Jamieson, and Mr Robert Auchincloss merchants there, ruling elders; From the city of Glasgow, Provost Arthur Connel; From the university of Glasgow, Professor William Wight; From the presbytery of Dunbarton, Mr Archibald Smith at Strathblane, Mr David M'Gibbon at Buchanan, Mr James Oliphant at Dunbarton, ministers, and Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, ruling elder; to be commissioners of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and conveen within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftner when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said commissioners to chuse their own moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully impowers their said commissioners, or their quorum above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly, and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the church on every occasion, that the church, and present establishment thereof do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs, or processes before synods or presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence

fluence upon, the whole church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private proceſſes be determined, except at the four ſtated diets: and what ſhall be determined at one diet of the Commiſſion, with relation to private cauſes, ſhall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and ſhall ſtand and continue in force, till diſapproven by the General Aſſembly. And the Aſſembly renews the inſtructions given by the General Aſſembly in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventeen, to their Commiſſion, and appoints the ſame to ſtand in full force, as inſtructions to the commiſſioners before-named, and to be obſerved by them in all points, as if the ſame were ſpecially here inſert; and that they inquire into the publiſhing and ſpreading of books and pamphlets tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconſiſtent with our *Confeſſion of Faith*; and that the recommenders of ſuch books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the ſaid Commiſſion to anſwer for the ſame. And further, the ſaid Commiſſion is hereby impowered to receive any references and appeals that ſhall be made to them from ſynods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen ſuch affairs for the next General Aſſembly; and to contribute what they can to the ſuppreſſing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and aſſiſtance to ſynods and preſbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewiſe to take care that the impreſſions of the *holy Scriptures*, the *Confeſſion of Faith* and *Catechiſms*, and ſuch books as are authoriſed by this church, relating to the doctrine, worſhip, diſcipline, and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the ſame. And the commiſſioners are appointed and impowered to keep a correſpondence with the committee for reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands, for ſuppreſſing Popery and ſuperſtition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in theſe parts, and give aſſiſtance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and ſpeedy redreſs. And the ſaid commiſſioners are hereby ſtrictly prohibited and diſcharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above-mentioned: And, in all their

actings,

actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies One thousand seven hundred and twelve, and One thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Assembly One thousand seven hundred and sixty one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Assembly held in the year One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days of weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required all of them to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlements of vacant churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any presbytery, or synod of this church, shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been sometimes the practice; but shall allow the same to lye over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such presbyteries or synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their commissioners their

reaſons for the ſame. And the Aſſembly doth further impower and direct the ſaid Commiſſion, to make due application to the King and Parliament for redreſs of the grievance of patronage, in caſe a favourable opportunity for ſo doing ſhall occur during the ſubſiſtence of this Commiſſion: And that in paſſing their ſentences, and in ordering the execution of the ſame, they ſtrictly obſerve the 12th act of the Aſſembly 1736.

VII.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Aſſembly.

THE next General Aſſembly of this National Church is appointed to be held in this place on Thurſday the 25th day of May, in the year 1775.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Aſſembly, by

GEORGE WISHART, *Cls. Ecc. Scot.*

[*The General Assembly transmits to Presbyteries the following Overture:*]

OVERTURE from the Presbytery of Edinburgh, anent Probationers being licensed without the bounds of the Church.

Edinburgh, March 30. 1774.

THE Presbytery met and constitute, and had laid before them the following Overture: Whereas it is a matter of the greatest importance to the interests of religion, to prevent persons not duly qualified from becoming preachers and ministers of the gospel; and as it has often been complained of, that persons not qualified according to the acts of this Church, have retired out of its bounds to places where they were not well known, and have obtained licence to preach, or been ordained ministers of the gospel: Therefore the Presbytery of Edinburgh overture to the General Assembly, to prohibit all persons educated or residing within the bounds of this Church from going out of its bounds, to obtain licences to preach; and to prohibit all preachers licensed by this Church from going without its bounds to obtain ordination, unless they are called to a particular congregation in another country; and to enact, that licences obtained in that manner shall not be received, or have any effect in this Church; and that such preachers as contraveen this act shall forfeit the licence formerly given them, and be no longer entitled to the privileges which belong to a preacher of the gospel in this Church. The Presbytery approved of the above Overture, and ordered their clerk to transmit the same to the next General Assembly.

Extracted by

JAMES CRAIG, *Presbytery Clerk.*

The General Assembly re-transmits to Presbyteries the following Overture:]

OVERTURE anent the Age of Ruling Elders, and the electing them to represent Sessions in the Presbytery and Synod.

THE General Assembly called for an overture anent the age of Ruling Elders, and the electing them to represent sessions in the Presbytery and Synod, which was given in to the General Assembly 1771, and by them ordered to lye over till Assembly 1772, which was read, and is as follows: *Primo*, That no person shall be ordained an Elder of this Church before he is twenty-one years of age compleat. *Secundo*, That all Presbytery Elders shall be elected within two months after the sitting of Synod, to attend the Presbytery and ensuing Synod of that bounds; and in case of death or demission, a new Elder shall be made within one month of the same. *Tertio*, That every Elder so chosen shall produce an extract of his election under the hand of the Session-clerk, before he be received on the roll of either Presbytery or Synod. The General Assembly ordered the above to be re-transmitted as an overture to the several Presbyteries, and appoints them to return their opinions thereupon to the next General Assembly.

A TABLE

A

TABLE of the printed Acts of the General Assembly, held in the Year 1774.

I. *THE King's Commission to* CHARLES *Lord Cathcart produced, and ordered to be recorded,* *Page* 3.

II. *The King's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by his Majesty's Commissioner,* 5

III. *The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter,* 7

IV. *The General Assembly's congratulatory Address to the King on the birth of a Prince,* 9

V. *Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end,* 11

VI. *Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing affairs referred to them,* 16

VII. *Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly,* 26

INDEX OR ABRIDGEMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland, held in the Year 1774, which are not printed at full length.

May 19. 1774. *Seſſ.* 1*ſt.*

AFTER ſermon by the Rev. Dr John Dryſdale, one of the miniſters of Edinburgh, Moderator of the laſt General Aſſembly, the Miniſters and Ruling Elders conveened in the Aſſembly-houſe, and after prayer by the ſaid Dr John Dryſdale, Dr Robert Henry, one of the miniſters of Edinburgh, was choſen Moderator, and, at the Aſſembly's deſire, took the chair.

The King's Commiſſion to the Right Hon. Charles Lord Cathcart, to repreſent his Majeſty's royal perſon, read, and recorded.

The King's moſt gracious letter to this Aſſembly read, and recorded.

The Commiſſioner's ſpeech at opening this Aſſembly, and the Moderator's ſpeech in return thereto.

His Majeſty's royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling delivered in to the Aſſembly by his Grace the Commiſſioner, and ordered to be recorded.

A committee named for anſwering the King's moſt gracious letter.

A committee named for reviſing the commiſſions to the members of this Aſſembly, cenſuring abſents from the diets thereof; naming miniſters to preach before his Grace the Commiſſioner; receiving in liſts of probationers in the ſeveral preſbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

Committee for overtures named.

Committee

Committee for bills, references, and appeals, named.
Adjournment.

May 20. 1774. *Seſſ.* 2*d.*

Sederunt.
A diet ſpent in prayer.
New commiſſions produced.
Act VII. of Aſſembly 1718, for the better diſpatch of the buſineſs of this Aſſembly, read, and the obſervation thereof enjoined.
Miniſters named to preach before his Grace the King's Commiſſioner.
The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening at their uſual places.
Adjournment.

May 21. 1774. *Seſſ.* 3*d.*

Sederunt.
New commiſſions.
The draught of an anſwer to the King's moſt gracious letter to this Aſſembly brought in and approven; and his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, undertakes to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.
The roll of cauſes tranſmitted by the committee for bills called for, produced, and read over.
The report of the committee for reviſing commiſſions having paſſed the committee for overtures, the ſame was called for, and read.
Two petitions at the inſtance of the Rev. Mr James Moriſon miniſter of the goſpel at Paiſley, a diſſenter from the preſbytery of Paiſley's ſubſtitution of Mr Walter Young miniſter of the goſpel at Erſkine, as a member of Aſſembly in place of one formerly choſen; and two petitions for the ſaid Mr Walter Young, a diſſenter and proteſter againſt the ſaid preſbytery's refuſal to atteſt his ſubſtitution, heard, and the ſubſtitution ſuſtained.
An objection to the commiſſion from the preſbytery of Abernethy, that it wanted a part of the preſcribed form of commiſſions, ſuſtained, and the commiſſion rejected.

A committee

A committee appointed to prepare an addreſs to his Majeſty on the late birth of a Prince.

A committee named to reviſe the actings and proceedings of the commiſſion of the laſt General Aſſembly.

A committee named to audite and reviſe the procurator and agent's accompts, conſider the ſtate of the public money, and prepare overtures about the ſame.

A committee named to reviſe the actings and proceedings of the committee named by laſt Aſſembly for managing the royal bounty for reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands.

It was moved by counſel from the bar, That the Aſſembly would take under their conſideration a petition and complaint of certain elders, heretors, and pariſhioners of St Ninians, againſt Mr Robert Finlay miniſter at Dollar. Before giving any anſwer to this deſire, the ſentence of laſt Aſſembly reſpecting the admiſſion of Mr Thomſon at St Ninians, and the report of what the Commiſſion had done in that affair, called for, and read; and in regard it appeared the Commiſſion had not ſummoned the members of the preſbytery of Stirling who were abſent from the admiſſion, to appear before this Aſſembly, the Commiſſion were called to the bar to give their reaſons for not obtempering that part of the Aſſembly's appointment. The Aſſembly having heard the Commiſſion, ſuſtained the excuſe offered by them, and diſmiſſed them from the bar. The Aſſembly appointed Mr Thomas Randal at Stirling, Mr John Duncan at Alva, Mr William Nimmo at Bothkennar, to be ſummoned to appear at the bar of this Aſſembly on Thurſday next the 26th of May inſtant, at eleven o'clock forenoon. Mr William Porteous at Glaſgow, in his own name, and in name of all thoſe who ſhould adhere to him, entered his diſſent againſt the ſaid judgment; and the Aſſembly allowed the members who chuſed to diſſent in this affair to do ſo on Monday. Reſolved to take in the petition and complaint againſt Mr Robert Finlay at Dollar, on Monday.

The committee for overtures empowered to receive in inſtructions from preſbyteries and ſynods to their members.

The

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet on Monday morning at ten o'clock, in their uſual places.

Adjournment.

May 23. 1774. *Seſſ.* 4*th.*

Sederunt.

New commiſſions produced.

Upon reading the ſentence of the Aſſembly on Saturday, ordering the three abſent members from the admiſſion of Mr David Thomſon at St Ninians to be ſummoned to appear before the Aſſembly, diſſents entered by ſeveral members.

The draught of an addreſs to his Majeſty on the late birth of a Prince, brought in and approven, with ſome ſmall alterations; and his Grace the Commiſſioner, at the Aſſembly's requeſt, undertakes to tranſmit the ſame to his Majeſty.

The report of the committee for bills called for, given in, and read over.

There was tranſmitted from the committee for overtures, an overture from the preſbytery of Edinburgh concerning ſtudents and preachers going out of the bounds of this Church to obtain licences, or ordination; as alſo another overture from the ſynod of Glaſgow and Ayr, anent irregular marriages; which being read, were ordered to lye on the table till next diet.

The report of the committee for the better order of the Aſſembly-houſe called for, read, and ordered to lye on the table till next diet.

A petition and complaint for John Stevenſon, James Stirling, James Cameron, William Cuthel, William Crawfurd, and John Archibald, all elders of the pariſh of St Ninians, and of William Glen of Plean, Eſq; and other heretors and pariſhioners of the ſaid pariſh thereto ſubſcribing, againſt Mr Robert Finlay miniſter at Dollar, heard. The Aſſembly ordered the ſaid petition and complaint to be ſerved upon Mr Finlay, and appointed him to be ſummoned to appear before this Aſſembly on Friday next the 27th of May inſtant, at eleven o'clock forenoon, in order to anſwer to the ſame. Mr Charles Niſbet at Mon-

troſe, in his own name, and in name of all thoſe who ſhould adhere to him, entered his diſſent againſt ſaid judgment; and the Aſſembly allowed any other members who chuſed to diſſent in this affair to do ſo to-morrow.

Synod-books called for. None being brought up to this Aſſembly, reſolved that the reaſons thereof be enquired into at an after diet.

Reſolve anent cauſes.

The committee for overtures to meet to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock, in their uſual place.

Adjournment.

May 24. 1774. *Seſſ.* 5*th.*

Sederunt.

Upon reading the minutes of yeſterday anent the Aſſembly's ordering Mr Robert Finlay at Dollar to be ſummoned to appear before them on Friday next, diſſents entered by ſeveral members.

New commiſſions produced.

The overture from the preſbytery of Edinburgh anent ſtudents and preachers going out of the bounds of this Church to obtain licences, or ordination, remitted back to the committee for overtures, and that they particularly attend to the addition to the overture on that ſubject now in dependence, reſpecting ordination.

A committee named to conſider the overture from the Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr, anent irregular marriages.

The report of the committee for the better order of the houſe again called for, read, and adopted by the Aſſembly; the committee continued, and the clerks empowered to name the Aſſembly beadles in time coming upon any vacancy, and to diſmiſs them if they find juſt cauſe.

A repreſentation for the truſtees of the Widows Fund, and alterations propoſed to be made on the plan of the ſcheme, tranſmitted by order of the General Aſſembly laſt year to preſbyteries and univerſities, for the conſideration of the contributors, given in by Mr John Warden preſes of the Truſtees, read; alſo reports

ports given in from the preſbyteries and univerſities on ſaid alterations; a committee appointed to meet with the Truſtees to conſider the ſaid repreſentation, *&c.* and to report to the Aſſembly on Saturday next, when they are to take this matter under their conſideration.

An appeal of his Grace Douglas Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, patron of the pariſh of Cambuſlang, and other heretors of ſaid pariſh; alſo of the Rev. Mr John Riſk, and Mr James Muirhead, commiſſioners appointed by the preſbytery of Hamilton for proſecuting Mr James Meek's tranſportation from Leſmahagow to Cambuſlang, from a ſentence of the preſbytery of Lanark, refuſing to tranſport the ſaid Mr James Meek from Leſmahagow to Cambuſlang, heard, the ſentence of the preſbytery reverſed, and the preſbytery of Hamilton appointed to proceed to the admiſſion of the ſaid Mr James Meek as miniſter of the pariſh of Cambuſlang with all convenient ſpeed, according to the rules of the Church; declaring, that his relation to the pariſh of Leſmahagow ſhall not be conſidered as diſſolved till he be admitted miniſter of Cambuſlang. Diſſents entered by two members, and the Aſſembly allowed the members who chuſed to diſſent in this affair to do ſo to-morrow.

Reſolve anent a cauſe.

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock, in their uſual places.

Adjournment.

May 25. 1774. *Seſſ.* 6*th.*

Sederunt.

Upon reading the minutes of yeſterday anent the Aſſembly's judgment in the ſettlement of Cambuſlang, diſſents entered by ſeveral members.

A new commiſſion produced.

The report of the committee for bills called for, given in, and read over; and the petition for Mr Thomas Smith at Cumertrees remitted to the committee for conſidering the applications for aid out of the public fund.

The

troſe, in his own name, and in name of all thoſe who ſhould adhere to him, entered his diſſent againſt ſaid judgment; and the Aſſembly allowed any other members who chuſed to diſſent in this affair to do ſo to-morrow.

Synod-books called for. None being brought up to this Aſſembly, reſolved that the reaſons thereof be enquired into at an after diet.

Reſolve anent cauſes.

The committee for overtures to meet to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock, in their uſual place.

Adjournment.

May 24. 1774. *Seſſ.* 5*th.*

Sederunt.

Upon reading the minutes of yeſterday anent the Aſſembly's ordering Mr Robert Finlay at Dollar to be ſummoned to appear before them on Friday next, diſſents entered by ſeveral members.

New commiſſions produced.

The overture from the preſbytery of Edinburgh anent ſtudents and preachers going out of the bounds of this Church to obtain licences, or ordination, remitted back to the committee for overtures, and that they particularly attend to the addition to the overture on that ſubject now in dependence, reſpecting ordination.

A committee named to conſider the overture from the Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr, anent irregular marriages.

The report of the committee for the better order of the houſe again called for, read, and adopted by the Aſſembly; the committee continued, and the clerks empowered to name the Aſſembly beadles in time coming upon any vacancy, and to diſmiſs them if they find juſt cauſe.

A repreſentation for the truſtees of the Widows Fund, and alterations propoſed to be made on the plan of the ſcheme, tranſmitted by order of the General Aſſembly laſt year to preſbyteries and univerſities, for the conſideration of the contributors, given in by Mr John Warden preſes of the Truſtees, read; alſo reports

ports given in from the preſbyteries and univerſities on ſaid alterations; a committee appointed to meet with the Truſtees to conſider the ſaid repreſentation, *&c.* and to report to the Aſſembly on Saturday next, when they are to take this matter under their conſideration.

An appeal of his Grace Douglas Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, patron of the pariſh of Cambuſlang, and other heretors of ſaid pariſh; alſo of the Rev. Mr John Riſk, and Mr James Muirhead, commiſſioners appointed by the preſbytery of Hamilton for proſecuting Mr James Meek's tranſportation from Leſmahagow to Cambuſlang, from a ſentence of the preſbytery of Lanark, refuſing to tranſport the ſaid Mr James Meek from Leſmahagow to Cambuſlang, heard, the ſentence of the preſbytery reverſed, and the preſbytery of Hamilton appointed to proceed to the admiſſion of the ſaid Mr James Meek as miniſter of the pariſh of Cambuſlang with all convenient ſpeed, according to the rules of the Church; declaring, that his relation to the pariſh of Leſmahagow ſhall not be conſidered as diſſolved till he be admitted miniſter of Cambuſlang. Diſſents entered by two members, and the Aſſembly allowed the members who chuſed to diſſent in this affair to do ſo to-morrow.

Reſolve anent a cauſe.

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet to-morrow at ten o'clock, in their uſual places.

Adjournment.

May 25. 1774. *Seſſ.* 6*th.*

Sederunt.

Upon reading the minutes of yeſterday anent the Aſſembly's judgment in the ſettlement of Cambuſlang, diſſents entered by ſeveral members.

A new commiſſion produced.

The report of the committee for bills called for, given in, and read over; and the petition for Mr Thomas Smith at Cumertrees remitted to the committee for conſidering the applications for aid out of the public fund.

The

The report of the committee for overtures called for, given in, and read over.

The General Aſſembly ordered the overture from the preſbytery of Edinburgh concerning ſtudents and preachers going out of the bounds of this Church to obtain licences, or ordination, to be tranſmitted as an overture to the ſeveral preſbyteries, and appointed them to return their opinions thereupon to the next Aſſembly.

Tranſmitted from the committee for overtures, an overture anent parochial ſchools; ordered to lye on the table till next diet.

A committee appointed to conſider a petition for the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, and to report on Saturday next.

An appeal of his Grace Charles Duke of Queenſberry and Dover, patron, Alexander Ferguſon of Craigdarroch, Eſq; and Thomas Collow younger of Auchinchain, Eſq; in name of the callers of the Rev. Mr William Grierſon miniſter at Amſterdam, to be miniſter of the pariſh of Glencairn, from a ſentence of the preſbytery of Penpont, refuſing to ſuſtain the call to the ſaid Mr Grierſon, heard; the call ſuſtained, and the preſbytery of Penpont appointed to admit him miniſter of the pariſh of Glencairn with all convenient ſpeed, according to the rules of the Church.

The committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning at ten o'clock, in their uſual places.

Adjournment.

May 26. 1774. *Seſſ.* 7*th.*

Sederunt.

A new commiſſion produced.

The report of the committee for bills called for, given in, and read over; and the petition of Ludovick Grant of Ardchatten, remitted to the committee appointed to conſider the applications for aid out of the public fund.

The report of the committee for overtures called for, given in, and read over.

The

The Aſſembly agreed, that the overture concerning members of inferior courts judging in cauſes appealed from them ſhould be diſmiſſed; the overture anent the age of ruling elders ſhould be re-tranſmitted to preſbyteries; and the overture concerning probationers being licenſed without the bounds of this Church, formerly tranſmitted, ſhould be diſmiſſed, in regard they had already tranſmitted the overture from the preſbytery of Edinburgh on that ſubject.

The overture anent parochial ſchools again called for, and read; the 6th act of Aſſembly 1758 read; the overture diſmiſſed, but preſbyteries enjoined to give all poſſible attention to carry the ſaid act of Aſſembly into execution, and to report their diligence therein to next Aſſembly.

The conſideration of the conduct of the members of the preſbytery of Stirling, who were not preſent at the admiſſion of Mr David Thomſon at St Ninians, on the laſt Tueſday of June, reſumed. The order of the clerk to the beadle for ſummoning the abſent members was called for, and read; as alſo the execution of the ſummons by the beadle againſt them: The ſaid Meſſrs Randal, Duncan, and Nimmo, being called, there compeared Meſſ. Randal and Duncan; but Mr Nimmo not appearing, and the execution of ſummons bearing that he was not ſummoned perſonally, the Aſſembly agreed to delay the conſideration of what concerned Mr Nimmo till Monday. The ſentence of laſt Aſſembly anent Mr Thomſon's ſettlement was read, and the queſtion being put to Meſſrs Randal and Duncan, Whether they were preſent at Mr Thomſon's ſettlement or not? They anſwered, they were not: And being aſked what they had to offer in excuſe for their abſence? Mr Randal declared to the following purpoſe; That though in general he acknowleges it his duty to behave as an obedient ſon of the Church, yet in this particular caſe he had not freedom of mind to concur in executing the ſettlement of Mr Thomſon, in conſiſtency with his principles, and with what he apprehended to be his ſuperior duty to God; at the ſame time he could declare with truth, that ſome particulars in his private

affairs would have rendered it extremely inconvenient for him to attend at ſaid admiſſion, the truth of which he doubted not, were it proper to repreſent theſe particulars, every member would be ſatisfied with as a good defence; but he did not put his defence on that ground.—Mr Duncan declared, That the circumſtances of his family were ſo diſtreſſing, and the diſtreſs was of ſuch a nature, that he could not poſſibly leave his own houſe on the day of Mr Thomſon's admiſſion; and was he to reſt his defence on this ground, he was perſuaded every member would ſuſtain it as abundantly ſufficient: But he muſt as an honeſt man declare, that after the moſt ſerious deliberation, he found himſelf obliged in conſcience not to concur in executing the ſettlement of Mr Thomſon. The Aſſembly appointed Meſſrs Randal and Duncan to be rebuked; which was done accordingly by the Moderator.

A letter of excuſe from Mr Graham miniſter at Dunlop, was produced and read, ſetting furth a reaſon for which he could not preach on Sunday next before his Grace the Lord Commiſſioner according to appointment. The Aſſembly ſuſtained his excuſe, and appointed Mr George Duncan at Lochruton to preach before his Grace the Lord Commiſſioner on Sunday next in the afternoon, in place of Mr Graham.

The committee on the public accompts, and the committee for reviſing the Royal Bounty Regiſter, appointed to meet to-morrow morning at nine o'clock, in the Society-hall.

Adjournment.

May 27. 1774. *Seſſ.* 8*th.*

Sederunt.

A new commiſſion produced.

The Procurator, Agent and Stationer's accompts produced, and ordered to lye on the table.

The Procurator produced and laid before the Aſſembly a view of the debts affecting the public fund of the Church, with an overture for paying off the ſame. The overture being read and conſidered by the Aſſembly,

ſembly, they approved thereof, and agreed thereto, which is as follows:

"On the other page the ſtate of the Church's debts appear to be L.1100 Sterling and upwards, without reckoning intereſt. And the Procurator begs leave to obſerve to the committee, that there is ten years intereſt reſting owing upon the L. 200 to the viſitors of the Highlands in the 1760, the prior and preferable creditors of the Church: That a demand has been made by the creditor of the viſitors for payment of principal and intereſt; but there is no fund for paying either the one or the other. It has been propoſed by the Procurator, and agreed to by the creditor, that the foreſaid bygone intereſt of ten years ſhall be accumulated or added to the principal; and the ſaid creditor, from the 4th of June next, being the day upon which the ten years intereſt is incurred, ſhall be ranked for L. 300, bearing intereſt, and accordingly held as a prior and preferable creditor on the Church funds for that capital and intereſt in time coming till payment; and it is hoped the committee will move the ſame to the General Aſſembly. In the *ſecond* place, the Procurator begs leave to obſerve, That a demand was alſo made for the principal and intereſt by the creditors in the L. 300 due to the commiſſioners ſent to London in the 1760, the ſecond preferable debt; there was likeways no fund for payment either of principal or intereſt of this debt: It was therefore propoſed and agreed to, that all bygone intereſt to the firſt of June laſt ſhould inſtantly be paid up; that annually thereafter, on the firſt of June, the intereſt ſhould be paid, as alſo L.100 of the capital; and the Procurator promiſed to execute this agreement: And when executed, the debt will be paid in three years. *Tertio*, The debt of L. 191 : 1 : 10 due to Mr George Trail, bears intereſt from the 1769. In this ſituation the Procurator being perſonally bound with the viſitors in the firſt debt of L.200, and engaged by promiſe for the payment of the L. 300 by three moieties, and after all a great load of debt remaining, it is hoped that the committee will move to the Aſſembly to avoid a total bankruptcy of the Church. *Primo*, That no new debts ſhall be incurred. *Secundo*, That the foreſaid ten years

intereſt

intereſt of the L. 200 ſhall be accumulated with the principal. And *tertio*, That the Aſſembly ſhall approve of the mode of extinguiſhing the debt of L. 300 due to and by the commiſſioners ſent to London in the 1760."

The members of the ſeveral ſynods are appointed to meet to-morrow morning at nine o'clock, in their uſual places, in order to name the nominators of the Commiſſion, and to lodge their nomination with the clerks.

The General Aſſembly recommend to all thoſe who have not as yet made the collection appointed by laſt Aſſembly for the bridge of Montroſe, to do it as ſoon as convenient.

The committee on the Window-tax continued, with the ſame powers as appointed by former Aſſemblies; and they are appointed to meet on Tueſday morning at ten o'clock, in the Truſtees-hall: And upon a motion by Dr Wiſhart for the reviſing of his accompts of the money contributed toward the application to Parliament, it is referred to the ſaid committee to reviſe the ſame.

The General Aſſembly reſumed the conſideration of the petition and complaint of John Stevenſon and others, againſt Mr Robert Finlay at Dollar. The petition and complaint, with the execution of citation againſt the ſaid Mr Robert Finlay, were read, and parties being called, there compeared for the complainers Mr Bannatyne M'Leod advocate, and the ſaid Mr Finlay himſelf. Mr Finlay being heard in anſwer to the complaint, denied the ſame as it is laid; ſaid he would avail himſelf of the privilege of every Britiſh ſubject not to accuſe himſelf, and therefore pled not guilty: But particularly declared, that he ſaid nothing on that occaſion diſreſpectful of the laſt General Aſſembly, or of the rulers of this Church; and was ſorry that his words in the charge at St Ninians had been ſo groſsly miſrepreſented as to give offence to any.—The counſel for the complainers craved, That as Mr Finlay had reſted his defence on denying the complaint as laid, the Aſſembly would appoint a ſtanding committee to take the proof of facts, and alſo exculpatory proof that might be offer-

ed

ed by Mr Finlay; but ſeveral members expreſſing doubts concerning the relevancy, competency, and expediency of the complaint, the counſel at the bar was heard upon theſe points, and parties were removed. A committee appointed to enquire into the facts contained in the petition, and to report to the next General Aſſembly the reſult of their enquiry, and what appears to them adviſeable for the Aſſembly to do therein; any three of whom to be a quorum, the Moderator appointed Conveener; and they are appointed to meet for the firſt time on Tueſday morning at nine o'clock, in the Society-hall, and thereafter when and where they think proper.

Adjournment.

May 28. 1774. *Seſſ.* 9th.

Sederunt.

The report of the committee appointed to conſider the applications for a ſhare of the public money called for, given in, and read. The General Aſſembly, in reſpect of the overture given in by the Procurator, and adopted by the Aſſembly yeſterday, unanimouſly agreed to refuſe the deſire of all the petitions. The petitions are the following:

Petition for Mr Thomas Smith miniſter at Cummertrees.

Petition the preſbytery of Gerloch in favour of Mr Donald M'Leod miniſter at Glenelg.

Petition and repreſentation of the preſbytery of Selkirk, anent the glebe of Lindean.

Petition of Mr Ludovick Grant miniſter at Ardchatten.

Petition and recommendation of the preſbytery of North Iſles, in favours of Mr Nicol Spence miniſter of Weſtray and Papa Weſtray.

Act approving the accompt of Mr David Dalrymple procurator for the Church, and exonering and diſcharging him and his cautioners of the ſum of L. 560 Sterling; and ordering that he debit himſelf in his next accompt for the ſum of L. 145 : 7 : 9 Sterling, being the balance in his hands.

Act approving the accompt of James Edmonſtone agent for the Church, and ſub-clerk to the General Aſſembly, and appointing that he ſhould have credit in his next accompt for the ſum of L. 35 : 17s. Sterling, being the balance due to him.

Act approving the accompt of William Miller ſtationer to the Church.

The report of the viſitors of the Commiſſion-book given in, and read, and the Commiſſion's conduct approven of: The Aſſembly's thanks given from the chair to the Moderator of the Commiſſion for their faithfulneſs and diligence in the affairs committed to them, and their book ordered to be atteſted.

The report of the committee for naming the members of the Commiſſion, and drawing inſtructions to them, given in, and approven of. The members from the preſbytery of Abernethy who were rejected upon informalities in their commiſſion, and Dr William Gloag, in place of the Moderator, were added thereto.

The report of the viſitors of the Royal Bounty Regiſter given in, and read: The conduct of the managers approven of, and their book ordered to be atteſted.

A committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commiſſion and inſtructions to them.

The report of the committee appointed to meet with the truſtees of the Widows Fund called for, given in, and read, and approven of; and ordered the repreſentation of the truſtees to be tranſmitted to preſbyteries and univerſities, and recommends it to the brethren preſent to acquaint the contributors in their ſeveral preſbyteries, that they ſhould without delay ſend up their opinions on the ſeveral alterations propoſed in the repreſentation, as it is the deſire of the truſtees to have the poſitive opinion of all concerned; and declare, that thoſe who ſhall not ſend up their opinions within the time mentioned in the committee's report, ſhall be held as conſenting *. A motion was made with regard to the choice of Collector and Clerk, and alſo propoſing ſome alteration of the law reſpecting miniſters of preſbytery ſeats and univerſities their being truſtees: This motion referred to Mr

* See the printed Repreſentation ſent to the ſeveral preſbyteries.

Mr Adam Ferguſon at Moulin, and he appointed to bring in a written opinion upon it on Monday. The thanks of the Houſe given to the truſtees for the great time and attention they have beſtowed upon the affairs of the fund; and alſo to Dr Webſter for his fidelity, care, and diligence in that matter.

The report of the truſtees of the fund eſtabliſhed by act of Parliament for a proviſion to miniſters widows, *&c.* given in, and read, and the ſame was ordered to lye on the table till another diet.

The report of the committee appointed on Wedneſday laſt to meet with the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, anent their petition for a collection, called for, given in, and read. The requeſt of the ſaid petition granted; and a committee appointed to draw up an act and recommendation to be read from the pulpits to this purpoſe, and appointed them to give in their report on Monday.

An appeal of William Leſly and others, late elders of the pariſh of Keith, from a ſentence of the preſbytery of Strathbogie, and ſynod of Murray, depoſing them from the office of elders. After hearing the counſel for one of the parties for a conſiderable time, the Aſſembly finding they could not have time to go through this cauſe, referred the ſame to their Commiſſion, and appointed them to take it in as the firſt cauſe.

Reſolve anent a cauſe.

Adjournment.

May 30. 1774. *Seſſ. ult.*

Sederunt.

Reaſons of diſſent from the judgment of the Aſſembly, ordering the members of the preſbytery of Stirling who were not preſent at the admiſſion of Mr Thomſon at St Ninians, to be ſummoned before this Aſſembly, were given in, and read, and ordered to be kept *in retentis.*

Reaſons of diſſent from the judgment of the Aſſembly, in the cauſe anent Cambuſlang, given in, read, and ordered to be kept *in retentis.*

Liſt of probationers produced, and their number ordered to be recorded.

None

None of the Synod-books being brought up to this Aſſembly, all the ſynods are ordered to ſend up their books to next Aſſembly.

According to appointment, on Thurſday laſt the Aſſembly called for the Rev. Mr William Nimmo at Bothkennar; but he not appearing, Dr Erſkine repreſented, that in a letter to himſelf, incloſing a certificate by a ſurgeon, of Mr Nimmo's being indiſpoſed at the time of Mr Thomſon's admiſſion, Mr Nimmo writes to him, that he had not received the citation ordered to be ſerved upon him, and the other two miniſters; but had obſerved in the news-papers when he was at Kilſyth, on a journey to Glaſgow about neceſſary buſineſs, that they were ordered to be ſummoned; and that his buſineſs could not poſſibly allow him to attend the Aſſembly in perſon at that time, and therefore had ſent to him the incloſed certificate: That he, Dr Erſkine, knew not where to direct a letter to Mr Nimmo ſince Thurſday laſt, he being on a journey. The Aſſembly having heard the ſurgeon's certificate read, they ſuſtained Mr Nimmo's excuſe.

The draught of an act and recommendation for a collection for the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge given in, read over, and approven; and an extract appointed to be given by the clerks to the clerk of the Society, that copies thereof may be tranſmitted to the ſeveral preſbyteries of this Church.

The report of the committee appointed by laſt Aſſembly to conſider the overture anent the increaſe of Popery called for, given in, read, and approven of; the committee continued, and the Aſſembly added thereto Mr Neil Ferguſon, and Mr Allan M'Connochie, advocates; and recommends to the ſaid committee to give particular attention to the ſtate of the pariſh of Lochbroom.

The report of Mr Adam Ferguſon on the motion with regard to the choice of the Collector and Clerk, and concerning the miniſters in preſbytery ſeats and univerſities, their being truſtees, called for, given in, and read, and the report ordered to be printed, and tranſmitted along with the repreſentation to preſbyteries and univerſities, in order that the contributors within their reſpective bounds may ſignify their opinion

opinion to the truſtees relative thereto within the time limited, and under the ſame certification, as is appointed by the Aſſembly, with reſpect to the articles contained in the repreſentation.

The report of the truſtees for managing the fund for a proviſion to miniſters widows, &c. containing a ſtate of the fund under their management, and an account of their proceedings ſince laſt Aſſembly, again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the ſeparate regiſter kept for that purpoſe.

An appeal of the donors to the meeting-houſe in Dunfermline, lately occupied by the deceaſed Mr Thomas Gilleſpie, from a ſentence of the preſbytery of Dunfermline, refuſing to receive them into Communion with the Church of Scotland, on certain conditions mentioned in the petition to the preſbytery, heard. In reſpect this cauſe comes before the Aſſembly in a crude ſtate, neither the terms of the original application being ſufficiently clear, nor the facts relative thereto ſufficiently underſtood and explained, therefore the proceedings of the preſbytery of Dunfermline in this affair diſmiſſed, reſerving to the appellants, and thoſe that may join with them, to give in a more explicit application to the preſbytery; and remitted to the ſaid preſbytery to take the ſame under their conſideration, and to do therein as they may ſee cauſe; and the Aſſembly recommends to the ſaid preſbytery to conſider with attention the whole circumſtances of the caſe, before they proceed to a determination.

A reference from the preſbytery of Elgin anent the call moderated in favours of Mr William Peterkin, preſented by his Majeſty to the vacant collegiate charge of the town and pariſh of Elgin, by the demiſſion of the Reverend Mr Lauchlan Shaw, heard; the call ſuſtained, and the preſbytery of Elgin appointed to proceed in the admiſſion of the ſaid Mr William Peterkin, as miniſter of the town and pariſh of Elgin, with all convenient ſpeed, according to the rules of the Church.

All cauſes brought before this Aſſembly, and not determined by them, referred to the Commiſſion, with power to them to judge and finally determine therein.

Proteſtations admitted.

An

An anſwer from the Secretary of State to the Aſſembly's letter to his Majeſty, produced and read.
A committee named to reviſe the minutes of the Aſſembly's proceedings at this and all the other meetings thereof, and to pitch upon ſuch of the acts of Aſſembly as are to be ſtanding rules, in order to their being printed.
The minutes of this day's ſederunt were read, the minutes of former ſederunts being read at the diets ſubſequent thereto.
The Moderator's ſpeech to the General Aſſembly and his Majeſty's Commiſſioner.
The Lord Commiſſioner's ſpeech to the Aſſembly.
Act appointing next meeting of Aſſembly.
The Aſſembly concluded with prayer and ſinging of pſalms.

FINIS.